



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 6202.0.55.001 - Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets, Dec 2008

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## Summary

### Main Features

The **Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets** (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001) product set includes time series data corresponding to the tables contained in the **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) publication.

Since these products are based on the same data as the **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the **6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Main Features** are relevant to both releases.

## Forthcoming Changes

### FORTHCOMING CHANGES

#### REVISION OF POPULATION BENCHMARKS

Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates of persons employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are calculated to add up to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 and over, referred to as population benchmarks. For the LFS estimates these population benchmarks are based on Census of Population and Housing (Census) data, adjusted for under-enumeration and updated for births, deaths, interstate migration, and net permanent and long term migration. Revisions are made to population benchmarks after each five-yearly Census.

From the February 2009 issue of the **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) and subsequent associated Labour Force releases, LFS estimates will be compiled using population benchmarks based on results from the 2006 Census. Additionally, for the period June 2001 to January 2009, LFS estimates will be revised based on the 2006 population benchmarks. The revised estimates will also be available with the release of the February 2009 issue of this publication on 12 March 2009.

#### REVISION OF LABOUR FORCE SURVEY STATISTICAL REGIONS

LFS Statistical Region boundaries are revised at each sample redesign to align with the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)** (cat. no. 1216.0). From the February 2009 issues of **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003), regional estimates will be produced based on the 2006 LFS Statistical Regions.

Additionally, LFS estimates will be revised back to November 2007 based on the new regions. For further details, see **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design** (cat. no. 6269.0).

## CLASSIFICATION OF INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION

From the February 2009 issue of **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) the industry and occupation employment estimates will be based on new classification structures.

Industry will be classified to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006. This classification system will replace the existing classification ANZSIC 1993, for the periods November 1984 to the current release. Industry data will continue to be collected in the LFS to the Group (3 digit) level. For more information on the implementation of ANZSIC 2006 see **Information Paper: update on ANZSIC 2008 Implementation, 2006** (cat. no. 1295.0.55.001).

Occupation will be classified to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). This classification system will replace the classification Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) Second Edition, introduced in August 1996. Occupation data will continue to be collected in the LFS to the Unit Group (4 digit) level. For more information on the implementation of ANZSCO see **Information Paper: ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2005** (cat. no. 1221.0).

## TIME SERIES SPREADSHEETS

On the ABS website, the February 2009 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) will include its corresponding time series spreadsheets on the same catalogue number. These spreadsheets are currently found at **Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets** (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001), which will cease following the January 2009 issue on 12 February 2009.

## About this Release

A set of Excel spreadsheets with summary results of the monthly Labour Force Survey containing estimates of employed and unemployed persons classified by sex, full-time/part-time status, states and territories and some age groups; and persons not in the labour force.

# Explanatory Notes

## Explanatory Notes

The **Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets** (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001) product set includes time series data corresponding to the tables contained in the **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) publication.

Since these products are based on the same data as the **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the **6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes** are relevant to all releases.

## Quality Declaration - Summary

### INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

### RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

### TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) and *Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets* (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001) are the first release. These data are released 32 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 39 days after the commencement of enumeration.

Detailed data which were not part of the first release from the Labour Force Survey are published in *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003), which are released one week after the initial release.

### ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 22,800 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.24% of the Australian Population. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate for the last year being 97%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in *Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube* (cat. no. 6298.0).

## COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) Table 20.2.

## INTERPRETABILITY

The key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are available as original, seasonally adjusted and trend series. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular influences which may be present and therefore month-to-month movements may not be reliable indicators of underlying behaviour. To assist in interpreting the underlying behaviour, the ABS produces the trend series by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series to reduce the impact of the irregular component. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends* (cat. no. 1349.0).

Further information on the terminology and other technical aspects associated with statistics from the Labour Force Survey can be found in the publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), which contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Standard Error information and a

## ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.

## Standard Errors

### Standard Errors

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the **standard error** (SE). New models for calculating standard errors for these estimates were introduced in July 2008, due to the 2008 sample reduction.

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To indicate those cells in the spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the table below has been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

For additional information on LFS standard errors see [Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube](#) (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001) and the Explanatory Notes tab in [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0).

State	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>Employed</b>									
Feb 78 to Sep 82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	4.5
Oct 82 to Aug 87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep 87 to Aug 92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Sep 92 to Aug 97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep 97 to Mar 01	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Apr 01 to Oct 07	4.9	4.1	3.7	2.0	2.3	1.1	1.4	1.1	4.9
Nov 07	5.0	4.1	3.8	2.0	2.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	5.0
Dec 07	5.0	4.2	3.9	2.0	2.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	5.0
Jan 08	5.1	4.3	3.9	2.1	2.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	5.1
Feb 08	5.2	4.4	4.0	2.1	2.6	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.1
Mar 08	5.4	4.4	4.1	2.1	2.9	1.2	1.0	1.2	5.2
Apr 08	5.5	4.6	4.5	2.2	3.0	1.2	0.9	1.3	5.3
May 08	5.5	4.7	4.5	2.3	3.1	1.3	0.9	1.3	5.4
Jun 08	5.6	4.8	4.6	2.3	3.2	1.3	0.9	1.3	5.4
Jul 08 onwards	7.0	6.0	5.7	2.9	4.0	1.6	1.0	1.6	7.7
<b>Unemployed</b>									
Feb 78 to Sep 82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	4.5
Oct 82 to Aug 87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5

Sep 87 to Aug 92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Sep 92 to Aug 97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep 97 to Mar 01	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Apr 01 to Oct 07	5.7	4.9	4.2	2.7	3.0	1.7	2.4	1.5	4.7
Nov 07	5.8	5.0	4.3	2.8	3.2	1.7	2.2	1.6	4.8
Dec 07	5.9	5.1	4.4	2.8	3.3	1.7	1.9	1.6	4.8
Jan 08	6.0	5.3	4.5	2.9	3.4	1.7	1.8	1.7	4.9
Feb 08	6.2	5.4	4.7	3.0	3.6	1.8	1.6	1.7	4.9
Mar 08	6.4	5.5	4.8	3.0	3.9	1.8	1.5	1.8	5.0
Apr 08	6.5	5.8	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.8	1.4	1.9	5.1
May 08	6.6	5.9	5.3	3.3	4.3	1.9	1.3	2.0	5.2
Jun 08	6.8	6.1	5.5	3.3	4.5	1.9	1.3	2.1	5.2
Jul 08 onwards	8.9	8.0	7.3	4.4	6.0	2.5	1.6	2.7	7.5
<b>NILF</b>									
Feb 78 to Sep 82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	4.5
Oct 82 to Aug 87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep 87 to Aug 92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Sep 92 to Aug 97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep 97 to Mar 01	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Apr 01 to Oct 07	5.9	4.8	4.4	2.5	2.9	1.3	1.8	1.3	5.3
Nov 07	6.0	4.9	4.5	2.5	3.0	1.4	1.7	1.4	5.3
Dec 07	6.1	5.0	4.5	2.6	3.0	1.4	1.6	1.4	5.4
Jan 08	6.2	5.1	4.6	2.6	3.1	1.4	1.5	1.4	5.4
Feb 08	6.2	5.2	4.7	2.7	3.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	5.5
Mar 08	6.6	5.4	4.8	2.7	3.6	1.4	1.2	1.5	5.6
Apr 08	6.7	5.6	5.3	2.9	3.7	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.7
May 08	6.8	5.7	5.5	2.9	3.9	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.8
Jun 08	6.9	5.9	5.6	3.0	4.0	1.5	1.0	1.7	5.8
Jul 08 onwards	8.7	7.4	7.1	3.7	5.1	1.9	1.3	2.0	8.3

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